

**Economic and Social Council**

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Agenda item 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**Draft decision submitted by the President of the Economic and Social Council****Status of non-governmental organizations and other major groups accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development**

The Economic and Social Council,

(a) Decides that, subject to their approval by the Council, non-governmental organizations and other major groups accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development¹ can participate in the first two-year implementation cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development² in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council;

(b) Emphasizes that this decision is taken on an exceptional basis, without prejudice to the established rules of procedure of the United Nations, in particular the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31 on the accreditation and participation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, and that it shall not be construed as a precedent;

(c) Emphasizes also that this decision shall apply to those non-governmental organizations and other major groups accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development that have submitted their applications for consultative status with the Council or that express, during the first two-year implementation cycle, preferably by 14 April 2004, their wish to participate in that cycle;

(d) Decides that the established rules of procedure of the United Nations on the accreditation and participation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies shall apply to the non-governmental organizations and other major groups accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development that wish to participate in future sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development beyond the first two-year implementation cycle;

¹ See E/2004/8.

² Twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development.



(e) Stresses, in this context, that early submission of applications by those non-governmental organizations and other major groups to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations would enhance the possibility of their review in time for future sessions of the Commission;

(f) Invites the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to consider such applications, in accordance with the rules of procedure and the practices of the United Nations, and to do so as expeditiously as possible;

(g) Requests the Secretary-General to make the present decision widely known, through proper channels, in order to facilitate the involvement of non-governmental organizations from all regions and areas of the world.
